

News Release



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SEEKING THE SOUL DRAWS POST 3 FOR REPEAT EFFORT IN FRIDAY'S GRADE I, \$500,000 CLARK HANDICAP PRESENTED BY NORTON HEALTHCARE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018) – Churchill Downs-based star **Seeking the Soul** is set to bid for repeat glory over his home track in Friday's 144th running of the \$500,000 Clark Handicap Presented by Norton Healthcare (Grade I), the premier race of the historic track's Fall Meet.

The 1 1/8-mile Clark heads a duo of stakes races on the 12-race "Black Friday" card on the day after Thanksgiving that is traditionally the most popular racing day of Churchill Downs' Fall Meet. The main event is scheduled as the 11th race on the Friday program at 5:56 p.m. (all times Eastern) that also features the 28th running of the \$200,000 Mrs. Revere (GII) for 3-year-old fillies on turf. Post time for Friday's first race is 1 p.m.

Seeking the Soul, owned by **Charles Fipke** and trained by leading conditioner **Dallas Stewart**, most recently finished second to **City of Light** in the Nov. 3 Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (GI) at Churchill Downs, his fifth start of 2018.

"He's just getting better as the year goes on," Stewart said. "Similar to his campaign last year when he won the Clark, he was peaking during this time. I would've liked to him to have had a shot to run in the (Breeders' Cup) Classic but it is what it is. Hopefully he runs well in the Clark and he can get another shot at the (\$9 million) Pegasus (World Cup Invitational at Gulfstream Park) in January."

A 5-year-old homebred son of Fipke's prized stallion Perfect Soul (IRE), Seeking the Soul survived a jockey's objection in last year's running of the Clark Handicap after the rider of third-placed **Hoppertunity**, **Florent Geroux**, claimed Hall of Fame rider **John Velazquez** interfered in the late stretch run. After review from the stewards, the claim was disallowed and Seeking the Soul's half-length win stood as is.

Following the Clark, Seeking the Soul was entered in the \$16 million Pegasus World Cup (GI) at Gulfstream Park but finished a disappointing fifth.

Velazquez has the call on Seeking the Soul (22-6-5-5—\$1,652,542) in the eight-horse Clark and drew post position No. 3 as the 123-pound starting high weight.

Among the formidable rivals to Seeking the Soul in the Clark is **Steve Landers Racing**'s Fayette Stakes (GII) winner **Leofric** (13-7-1-3—\$650,340) for trainer **Brad Cox**. The gray son of Candy Ride (ARG) is in search of his first Grade I victory for the Louisville-based conditioner.

Leofric's 2018 campaign began at Oaklawn Park in early January with a narrow victory in a non-winners of three allowance race. The 5-year-old Kentucky-bred tried stakes company in his next start, the Razorback Handicap (GIII), but finished second to fellow Clark rival **Hawaakom**. The seven-time winner is poised to close the year with a bang following a victory in the West Virginia Governors Cup (GIII) at Mountaineer and a third-place effort in the Woodward (GI) prior to his Fayette score. Cox's regular rider **Geroux**, who won the 2016 Clark Handicap aboard eventual 2017 Horse of the Year **Gun Runner**, has the return call and drew post 5 with a 121-pound assignment.

Breaking just outside of Leofric is the ultra-consistent 3-year-old **Bravazo** (15-3-3-3—\$1,206,528) for Hall of Fame trainer **D. Wayne Lukas** and **Calumet Farm**. The Awesome Again colt will attempt to give Lukas a record-tying third win in the race after previously winning with **Will Take Charge** (2013) and **Surfside** (2000). Both of Lukas' previous winners were 3-year-olds that cemented year-end divisional championship honors.

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Bravazo has competed in many of the top races in 2018, including all three legs of the Triple Crown, the Haskell (GI), Travers (GI) and Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile (GI). Most notably, Bravazo finished second in the Preakness (GI) behind eventual Triple Crown winner **Justify** and third, 2 1/2 lengths behind Seeking the Soul, in the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile.

The three-time winner will have the riding services of **Joel Rosario** at 118 pounds in the Clark Handicap.

Invading from the West Coast for the Clark is **DP Racing's Prime Attraction** (19-4-4-2—\$499,545), who led nearly every step of the 1 1/8-mile journey in the Fayette before Leofric surged for a narrow victory. Trained by **James Cassidy**, Prime Attraction remained in Kentucky following the Fayette with his son, **Christopher**. The 5-year-old by Unbridled's Song was banging heads with eventual Breeders' Cup Classic (GI) winner **Accelerate** in the Pacific Classic (GI) and Awesome Again (GI) before shipping east to Keeneland in October. Regular rider **Kent Desormeaux** has the call on the four-time winner and drew the rail with a 120-pound weight assignment.

The complete Clark Handicap field from the rail out (with jockey, trainer and assigned weight): Prime Attraction (Desormeaux, Cassidy, 120 pounds); **Hence** (Ricardo Santana Jr., Steve Asmussen, 118); Seeking the Soul (Velazquez, Stewart, 123); Hawaakom (Joe Rocco Jr., Wes Hawley, 116); Leofric (Geroux, Cox, 121); Bravazo (Rosario, Lukas, 118); **Storm Advisory** (Albin Jiminez, Anthony Quartarolo, 114); and **Sightforsoreeyes** (Tyler Gaffalione, Quartarolo, 115).

Like the Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (GI) and the Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI), the Clark Handicap was run for the first time in 1875's inaugural racing meet at Churchill Downs, which was then known as the Louisville Jockey Club. The Clark, the Derby and the Oaks have been run each year without interruption since their debuts.

STELLA DI CAMELOT TOPS DEEP CAST IN \$200,000 MRS. REVERE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018) – A full field of 12 up-and-coming 3-year-old fillies, led by trainer **Chad Brown**'s East Coast-invader **Stella di Camelot (IRE)**, are poised to tackle Friday's 28th running of the \$200,000 Mrs. Revere (GII), a 1 1/16-mile journey on the Matt Winn Turf Course.

The Mrs. Revere is the precursor to the track's traditional "Black Friday" feature, the \$500,000 Clark Handicap Presented by Norton Healthcare (GI). Friday's first race is 1 p.m. (all times Eastern) with the Mrs. Revere set as Race 10 at 5:27 p.m. and the Clark as Race 11 at 5:56 p.m. The final race of the day is scheduled for 6:24 p.m.

Owned by **Madaket Stables, Michael Dubb, Kent Speillman and Bethlehem Stables**, Stella Di Camelot (IRE) entered Brown's barn from France following a third-place finish in the Premio Regina Elena (GIII) in Italy on April 29 and an allowance victory in France on May 22.

When Stella di Camelot (IRE) arrived to barn, the daughter of Camelot was victorious by 2 3/4 lengths in the \$200,000 Pebbles Stakes at Belmont Park over "soft" turf. One of Brown's go-to riders, **Joel Rosario**, has the mount in the Mrs. Revere and will break from post position No. 10.

Also entered in the Mrs. Revere – the penultimate North American turf stakes for 3-year-old fillies – is multiple stakes winner **Dark Artist** for **Goodwood Racing** and trainer **Jane Cibelli**.

The filly by Paynter is 4-for-9 lifetime including narrow wins in Monmouth Park's Open Mind and Boiling Spring. The Kentucky-bred was most recently fourth behind fellow Mrs. Revere competitor **Princess Warrior** in the Pucker Up (GIII) at Arlington Park.

Trevor McCarthy has the call on Dark Artist and breaks from post 12.

Among the other entrants in the Mrs. Revere are the second and third place finishers in Keeneland's Valley View (GIII), **Get Explicit** and **Cool Beans**, respectively.

Get Explicit, owned by **Modeste Racing Stable** and trained by Canadian-based **Barbara Minshall**, finished a half-length behind **Colonia (FR)** in the Valley View at odds of 70-1. The three-time winner, who is in search of her first stakes win, gets the riding services of **Ricardo Santana Jr.** from post 8.

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Cool Beans, trained by Louisville-based **Brad Cox**, has not finished off the board in all seven starts with a record of 2-3-2 and \$161,150 in purse earnings. The filly by Candy Ride (ARG) finished second in the Hatoof Stakes at Arlington Park in July prior to a three-quarters of a length victory in a first-level allowance race at Saratoga.

Regular pilot **Florent Geroux** has the call and drew post 5.

Another locally-based horse entered in the Mrs. Revere is **Glencrest Farm** and **Hold Your Horses, Inc.**'s lightly-raced **Angel of Mischief** for first-year trainer **Norm Casse**. The Into Mischief filly will look for her third win in a row after a 1 3/4-length victory at Kentucky Downs to break her maiden and a 1 3/4-length score in a first-level allowance at Keeneland.

Jockey **Tyler Gaffalione** has the mount and will break from post 3.

The complete field for the Mrs. Revere from the rail out (with jockey and trainer): **Lessons From Avery** (Edgar Morales, Charlie LoPresti); **High Tech** (Chris Landeros, Ian Wilkes); **Angel of Mischief** (Gaffalione, Casse); **Kabella** (Declan Cannon, Danny Peitz); Cool Beans (Geroux, Cox); **Princess Warrior** (Brian Hernandez Jr., Kenny McPeek); **Over Thinking** (Corey Lanerie, Vicki Oliver); **Get Explicit** (Santana, Minshall); **Divine Queen** (Calvin Borel, Buff Bradley); **Stella di Camelot (IRE)** (Rosario, Brown); **Arabella Bella** (Albin Jiminez, Mikhail Yanakov); and **Dark Artist** (McCarthy, Cibell).

All jockeys are assigned 118 pounds.

The race is named as a tribute to the highly competitive filly Mrs. Revere, who collected a total of four Churchill Downs stakes during a two-year local reign from 1984-85. Mrs. Revere collected three of those stakes during her 3-year-old season, thus providing the appropriate name for this stakes for 3-year-old fillies on the turf. Mrs. Revere was owned by the partnership of **Dr. Hiram Polk** and **Dr. David Richardson**.

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